hari no hana-
quartz flowers, chapter 10

inariya fusanosuke

translation & graphics:
chou & friends

ADULTS ONLY
AO
contains:
nudity, violence

Quartz Flowers

玻璃の花……

第10話

FUSANOSUKE INARIYA PRESENTS 稲荷家房之介

このお話は・時は長和三年 平安京。貴族たちの描いた王朝文化は爛熟の極みにあったが、三条天皇と藤原道長の対立は決定的となり、政は暮しく滞り乱れていた。獣の刻印を持つ下法師 芦屋道満は術者の始末し、仕事するが、そんな折、瑞獣阿闍梨の身に異変を感じて居場所を探り、久々の再会を果たす。しかしそれは道満を追う滴明の罠であり 道満はなす術なく捕まってしまった。一方 道長は着実に栄耀達盛を遂らし

GRAB
LOOKS LIKE I ENDED UP SCARING HIM A BIT.
JUST A LITTLE MISCHIEF THAT GOT OUT OF HAND.
WHAT'S WRONG?!
CLENCH
NOTHING MAJOR
NH-
RUSTLE
PL PLEASE EXCUSE OUR INTRU-
THAT'S ENOUGH NOW
YOU'RE SPOILING MY FUN
PULL
scratch
TCH-
WHAM
SMACK
HEH

THUD
HE'S EITHER FROM MT. KOUYA,
OR HE'S ONE OF ONONO-MIYA'S DOGS.
KINDLY OFFER MY GUEST
AN ESCORT OUT.
NOW THEN,
TWIST
AH!
GET HIM TO CONFESS.
AFTER THAT, DO AS YOU LIKE.
ZAAAA

ZAAA
A CURSE!
THAT'S NO AMATEUR TECHNIQUE
IN OUR HURRY, WE ENDED UP RUNNING INTO SOMETHING TROUBLESOME
THAT CAREFULLY CRAFTED MIASMA
IS CONTAMINATING THE MOUNTAIN'S BARRIER-
!?
CRUNCH

*TNARIYA'S NOTE A TECHNIQUE IN WHICH THE RELEASE OF ONE'S VOICE IS ITSELF THE SPELL. THE SPELL'S POWER IS HARDESSED AT THE MOMENT THE SEAL ON THE VOICE IS BROKEN.

WHOA- SCARY.
AH- I SEE.
NOW!
GO!
CAN YOU GO BY YOUR- SELF TO DOUMAN AND GIVE HIM THE NEWS?
OKAY!
WE'VE BEEN CARELESS. THE MORE MOVES WE MAKE,
THE MORE WE KEEP FALLING INTO THAT MAN'S TRAP.
WELL THEN,
BUT-
THIS WON'T MAKE A PRETTY STORY,
CLENCH

DESPITE HOW IT LOOKS,
AT LEAST TECHNICALLY, I AM A BUDDHIST PRIEST
I'D HATE TO LAY HANDS ON A WOMAN
RUSTLE
SO, I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE-
BUT HOW BOUT YOU KEEP NICE AND QUIET NOW, EH?
IF SOMEONE WERE TO QUESTION THIS FORM,
IF YOU DO, THE SPELL WILL BREAK AND YOU'LL RETURN TO YOUR ORIGINAL BODY-
YOU MUST NOT UTTER A SINGLE WORD.
YOU MUST NOT SHOW YOURSELF TO ANYONE.
THEN
THAT'S RIGHT.

WITH THE KNIFE THAT BOUND YOUR MOUTH-
SEVER EVERY-THING.
!?
STOP!
STAB
WHAT THE ...?
AGAIN ...
drip

COUGH
...AH...
AH!
AAAAH!
AH!

DON'T LOSE YOUR FOCUS!
IT'S OKAY. STILL HOLDING
THE AJARI ...!?
WHOOSH
AS LONG AS HIS BODY SURVIVES,
IT WILL BE SUFFICENT FOR HIS ROLE AS A SHELL.
BIND HIS SPIRIT TO HIS BODY,
ALL OF OUR PREPARATIONS HAVE BEEN FOR THE SAKE OF THIS DAY.
IT HURTS.
MY BODY IS BURNING
COUNT-LESS TIMES ALREADY
I'VE ACCEPTED THIS PAIN
IT HURTS-
NO MATTER WHAT.

THIS TIME AROUND
BUT
MAYBE I'LL DIE.
MY ROLE, THIS
■FORTGEFAHREN■

• More Magic to Not Try at Home

There's so much magic flying around **Hari no Hana,** that it's hard to keep track of it all sometimes. So I thought I'd do a quick review of who's cast what and who's under what spell so far.

Court Retainer/Demon Minion Girl:

Demon Minion Girl, in her original form, is a member of the **Empress'** court. The magic she was attempting with the help of ***Seimei*** is called *ushi no koku mairi,* more completely translated as "shrine visit at the hour of the ox."

In RL Japan, *ushi no koku mairi* is a magic technique similar to use of a *voodoo doll,* usually done by a woman to curse a man who has been unfaithful to her. It's generally accomplished by visiting a shrine seven nights in a row at the hour of the ox (from 1-3 am), nailing a representation of the target to a sacred tree, and praying for the curse to occur. In some versions of the tradition, the magic user becomes (willingly) possessed by a demon on the seventh night to carry out her revenge, in others the curse comes to fruition on that night without further intervention from the caster.

It's a comparatively simple, well-known technique in Japan, and since it's usually used against an unfaithful lover, implies that ***Demon Minion Girl's*** target was ***Atsuakira*** (not ***Suikei*** or **Mt. Kouya**), possibly because he spurned her in favor of ***Lady Kanshi.***

So what's up with the knife and the yucky miasma and all that? Unfortunately for ***Demon Girl,*** ***Seimei*** has cast a bunch of other, more complicated, magic on her too, which she may or may not have agreed to or been aware of.

Unlike ***Demon Girl,*** ***Seimei's*** target (in this spell) is ***Suikei***- or more accurately, the spell cast by the **Mt. Kouya** Dudes that ***Suikei*** is under. So the yucky miasma is for cracking the protective barrier on **Mt. Kouya,** the *seimonshu* (voice magic) is for... er... I dunno, general destructive power or maybe it's what's letting ***Seimei*** possess ***Demon Girl*** or meh, I couldn't find anything about it on the internet, so I'm lost there too... And the knife is for cutting the link between ***Suikei*** and ***Atsuakira*** and/or between ***Suikei's*** body and his spirit.

Quartz Flowers

Translation notes

• More Magic to Not Try at Home II

Seimei:

Seimei seems pretty impervious so far, at least to magic He's cast a bunch of magic and seems to be under none himself His body is back with his two adorable *mugami* (dog spirits) at wherever he casts his magic from, and his spirit is out roaming around visiting and causing trouble.

So far, ***Seimei's*** spirit has followed ***Douman's*** link to ***Suikei***, past **Mt. Kouya's** barrier into ***Suikei's*** dream world, battled it out with ***Douman*** and left ***Douman's*** body rotting in a field and ***Douman's*** spirit as puppy chow for the *mugami* and gone to visit *Michinaga* with updates during *Michi-chan's* romantic interlude. Part of his spirit may or may not still be inside ***Suikei's*** dream.

Although he's magically powerful, ***Seimei*** is vulnerable to manipulation through his need to protect his mentor, ***Yasunori*** (who we haven't seen much of so far in the story).

Douman:

Douman is not currently doing too hot He has only one spell intact that we know of- the curse he cast on himself, by means of the tattoo on his arm, that connects him to ***Suikei.*** Except for that, he seems to be pretty much toast, having been squarely defeated by ***Seimei*** a couple chapters back As far as we know, his soul has been eaten by ***Seimei's*** puppies, although some part of him or his spell appears to still be hanging around ***Suikei*** in the form of that black thing in ***Suikei's*** dream pool.

Fortunately for ***Douman***, his one remaining spell should be a pretty strong one In RL, Buddhist tattooing is usually done for protective or devotional reasons and is generally thought to be fairly powerful The deal ***Douman*** made with his, which trades control of a ***Dharmapala-*** a wrathful, violent Buddhist deity- for his own self's slow destruction, has the benefit (in terms of power) of being extremely costly to him, a direct correlate with effectiveness in many systems of magic And it also involves an entity, the ***Dharmapala,*** which while destructive in the short run, does ultimately do it's work for the benefit of beings that can't be rescued with less violent means.

Quartz Flowers

Translation notes

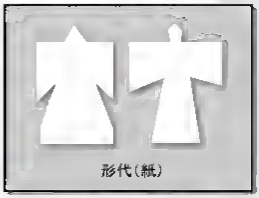
◆ *More Magic to Not Try at Home III*

Suikei:

More than anyone else in the story, ***Suikei*** has so much magic on him that it's difficult to sort it all out. ***Suikei's*** body is currently in the inner shrine on **Mt. Kouya,** but his spirit is in some world of unclear origin, possibly his own dreams, possibly something else, or maybe both.

In regards to magic, first there's the mega-spell at the center of **Hari no Hana's** plot, cast by the monks of **Mt. Kouya,** that makes ***Suikei*** a *katashiro* for **Crown Prince *Atsuakira*.** In RL, *katashiro* are inanimate representations of people or situations, usually made of paper, one use of which is to transfer negative life events from the user to the object- this is the use the **Mt. Kouya** Dudes are putting ***Suikei*** to on ***Atsuakira's*** behalf.

Then there's a second (or maybe second part of the same) spell on ***Suikei***, also cast by the **Mt. Kouya** Dudes, to block his memory of having (probably temporarily, on a pilgrimage) left **Kouya** and met then ***chibi-Douman***. That spell appears to be currently falling apart.



▲ Katashiro made of paper

And then there's ***Douman's*** curse on himself, which affects ***Suikei*** through the link it causes. And ***Seimei*** is somehow now in the mix as well, having followed ***Douman's*** link to ***Suikei*** and involved himself in some manner or other that isn't completely clear.

So what's going on in ***Suikei's*** dream world exactly, and who is responsible for it? I have some guesses, but since I think we're not supposed to know that yet for sure, I'll keep my speculation to myself for now in courtesy to those of you who don't want spoilers (my apologies to those of you who do).

The RL Version:

Human beings make ourselves with the stories that we tell. Please don't use **Hari** or my notes to help make yourself someone sad. For people interested in learning more about the RL versions of the practices in **Hari no Hana,** these are some decent sites to start with:

The International Shingon Institute- **http://www.shingon.org/**
Americana Buddhist Temple, Shingonshu- **http://www.abtemple.org/**
Jinja Honcho Assoc of Shinto Shrines- **http://www.jinjahoncho.or.jp/en/**
Tsubaki Grand Shrine of America (Shinto)- **http://www.tsubakishrine.org/**
Buddhanet's list of Tibetan Buddhist Assoc's
(Buddhist practice w/ an esoteric focus, more accessible to non-Japanese speakers than Shingon)- **http://www.buddhanet.net/l_tibet.htm**

▲ Daimoku tattoo